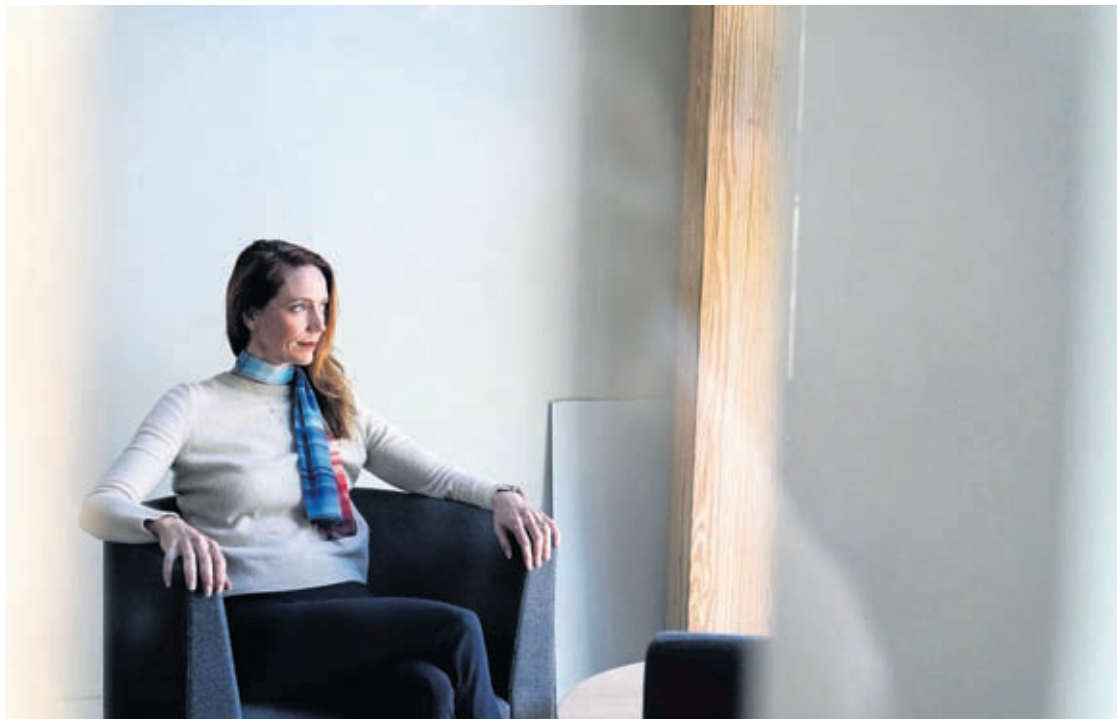




## AP-NORC poll: Many in U.S. doubt their own impact on climate



Climate scientist Kim Cobb, poses for a portrait at the Georgia Institute of Technology on Thursday, April 14, 2022, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

By HANNAH FINGERHUT and NUHA DOLBY  
WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans are less concerned now about how climate change might impact them personally — and about how their personal choices affect the

climate — than they were three years ago, a new poll shows, even as a wide majority still believe climate change is happening. The June Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll, which was conducted before

Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act on Friday, shows majorities of U.S. adults think the government and corporations have a significant responsibility to address climate change.

Continued on next page

## 'We will deliver around 300 schoolbags for children this year'



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**Continued from Front**

The new law will invest nearly \$375 billion in climate strategies over the next decade.

Overall, 35% of U.S. adults say they are "extremely" or "very" concerned about the impact of climate change on them personally, down from 44% in August 2019. Another third say they are somewhat concerned. Only about half say their actions have an effect on climate change, compared with two-thirds in 2019.

Black and Hispanic Americans, women and Democrats are especially likely to be strongly concerned about the impact of climate change on them personally and about how their personal choices affect the climate.

Many climate scientists told The Associated Press that the shifts are concerning but not surprising given that individuals are feeling overwhelmed by a range of issues, now including an economy plagued by inflation after more than two years of a pandemic. In addition to being outpaced by other issues, climate change or the environment are mentioned as priorities by fewer Americans now than just a few years ago, according to the poll.

Diane Panicucci in West Warwick, Rhode Island, believes climate change is happening and that it needs to be addressed. But for her, it's a lower priority compared with other issues, including inflation and food and drug costs.

"There's so much unrest in this country right now," the 62-year-old said. "People are suffering."

Panicucci added solar panels to her house, and



**Employees of NY State Solar, a residential and commercial photovoltaic systems company, install an array of solar panels on a roof, Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022, in the Long Island hamlet of Massapequa, N.Y.**

**Associated Press**

she's cut back on driving. She thinks individuals should do what they're told will help, but "it doesn't start with little ol' me. It has to be larger scale," she said.

While the climate crisis will require an "all of the above approach," it's "reasonable" that individuals don't feel they have the bandwidth to tackle climate action "on top of everything else," said Kim Cobb, director of the Institute at Brown University for Environment and Society.

Roughly two-thirds of Americans say the U.S. federal government, developed countries abroad and corporations and industries have a large responsibility to address climate change. Fewer — 45% — say that of individual people.

Jack Hermanson, a 23-year-old software engineer, feels strongly that corporations are the "major culprits" of emissions and that the gov-

ernment is complicit in that behavior.

"I don't know if that makes sense to say that individuals should have to work and fix the climate," the Denver resident said. "I would say my individual actions hardly mean anything at all."

U.S. household greenhouse gas emissions are not as much as those from cars, trucks and other transportation, electrical power generating and industry. A 2020 University of Michigan study of 93 million U.S. homes estimates that 20% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions comes from home energy use, with wealthier Americans' per capita footprints about 25% higher than low-income residents.

But like many others that spoke to the AP, that difference hasn't stopped Hermanson from trying. He's been a vegetarian for four years, and he tries to bike or take public transporta-

tion, buy products with less packaging and recycle.

Among Americans who believe in climate change, 70% say it will be necessary for individuals to make major lifestyle changes to combat the issue. Most think individuals have at least some responsibility. Individuals can believe they personally don't have a direct impact while also recognizing that collective action is essential to combatting climate change, said Shahzeen Attari, who studies human behavior and climate change at Indiana University.

The poll shows about 6 in 10 Americans say they have reduced their driving, reduced their use of heat or air conditioning and bought used products instead of new ones. Nearly three-quarters are using energy efficient appliances. Among those who are taking those steps, most say

the main reason is to save money, rather than to help the environment.

Fewer — roughly a quarter — say they use an electricity supplier that gets power from renewable sources, and only about 1 in 10 live in a home with solar panels or drive a hybrid or electric car.

Brad Machincia, a 38-year-old welder, said he wouldn't switch from his gas car to an electric vehicle. While he said he grew up in a West Virginia household that used renewable energy sources, he hasn't adopted those practices for his family in Christiansburg, Virginia. Climate change used to be a concern for him, but at this point, he feels like it's "beating a dead horse."

"There's nothing we can do to fix it," he said.

Individuals should feel empowered to make climate-driven decisions that not only help reduce emissions but also improve their lives, said Jonathan Foley, executive director at climate nonprofit Project Drawdown. Foley thinks the findings show that efforts to engage Americans need to shift away from doomsday scenarios, include diverse messengers and focus on the ways climate solutions can intersect with Americans' other priorities.

Julio Carmona, a 37-year-old financial clerk, said he recently transitioned his home in Bridgeport, Connecticut, to solar energy because the switch will help reduce his carbon footprint and his expenses, even if modestly.

"I thought that it was just something smart for us to do long term," he said. "I just kind of wanted to do my part, whether or not it's gonna make a difference." □



**Jonathan Parducho, a pharmacist, removes a tray of vials of the Jynneos vaccine for monkeypox from a box containing 20 doses, in the vaccine hub at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, July 29, 2022, in San Francisco.**

**Associated Press**

## U.S. offers more monkeypox vaccine to states and cities

**NEW YORK (AP)** — U.S. officials said they are able to ship out more monkeypox vaccine doses than previously planned — because of a strategy shift that allows more shots to be drawn from each vial.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services had previously anticipated

allowing 221,000 doses to be ordered starting Monday. But officials said they would release 442,000 doses for order by state, local and territorial health departments. The accelerated release was only possible because U.S. health officials said last week that they would stretch the na-

tion's limited supply of Jynneos monkeypox vaccine by giving people one-fifth the usual dose, injected just under the skin. Previously, each vaccine dose required a full vial injected into deeper tissue. They cited research suggesting that the reduced amount is about as effective. □





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## Northeastern farmers face new challenges with severe drought

**PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)**

— Vermont farmer Brian Kemp is used to seeing the pastures at Mountain Meadows Farm grow slower in the hot, late summer, but this year the grass is at a standstill.

That's "very nerve-wracking" when you're grazing 600 to 700 cattle, said Kemp, who manages an organic beef farm in Sudbury. He describes the weather lately as inconsistent and impactful, which he attributes to a changing climate.

"I don't think there is any normal anymore," Kemp said.

The impacts of climate change have been felt throughout the Northeastern U.S. with rising sea levels, heavy precipitation and storm surges causing flooding and coastal erosion. But this summer has brought another extreme: a severe drought that is making lawns crispy and has farmers begging for steady rain. The heavy, short rainfall brought by the occasional thunderstorm tends to run off, not soak into the ground.

Water supplies are low or dry, and many communities are restricting nonessential outdoor water use. Fire departments are battling more brush fires and crops are growing poorly.

Providence, Rhode Island had less than half an inch of rainfall in the third driest July on record, and Boston had six-tenths of an inch in the fourth driest July on record, according to the National Weather Service office in Norton, Massachu-



Hay farmer Milan Adams stands in a dry hay field near a wind sock, left, in Exeter, R.I., Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022.

Associated Press

setts. Rhode Island's governor issued a statewide drought advisory Tuesday with recommendations to reduce water use. The north end of the Hoppin Hill Reservoir in Massachusetts is dry, forcing local water restrictions.

Officials in Maine said drought conditions really began there in 2020, with occasional improvements in areas since. In Auburn, Maine, local firefighters helped a dairy farmer fill a water tank for his cows when his well went too low in late July and temperatures hit 90. About 50 dry wells have been reported to the state since 2021, according to the state's dry well survey.

The continuing trend toward drier summers in the Northeast can certainly be

attributed to the impact of climate change, since warmer temperatures lead to greater evaporation and drying of soils, climate scientist Michael Mann said. But, he said, the dry weather can be punctuated by extreme rainfall events since a warmer atmosphere holds more moisture — when conditions are conducive to rainfall, there's more of it in short bursts.

Mann said there's evidence shown by his research at Penn State University that climate change is leading to a "stuck jet stream" pattern. That means huge meanders of the jet stream, or air current, get stuck in place, locking in extreme weather events that can alternately be associated with extreme heat and

drought in one location and extreme rainfall in another, a pattern that has played out this summer with the heat and drought in the Northeast and extreme flooding in parts of the Midwest, Mann added. Most of New England is experiencing drought. The U.S. Drought Monitor issued a new map Thursday that shows areas of eastern Massachusetts outside Cape Cod and much of southern and eastern Rhode Island now in extreme, instead of severe, drought.

New England has experienced severe summer droughts before, but experts say it is unusual to have droughts in fairly quick succession since 2016. Massachusetts experienced droughts in 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021 and 2022,

which is very likely due to climate change, said Vandana Rao, director of water policy in Massachusetts. "We hope this is maybe one period of peaking of drought and we get back to many more years of normal precipitation," she said. "But it could just be the beginning of a longer trend." Rao and other water experts in New England expect the current drought to last for several more months.

"I think we're probably going to be in this for a while and it's going to take a lot," said Ted Diers, assistant director of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services water division. "What we really are hoping for is a wet fall followed by a very snowy winter to really recharge the aquifers and the groundwater."

Rhode Island's principal forest ranger, Ben Arnold, is worried about the drought extending into the fall. That's when people do more yardwork, burn brush, use fireplaces and spend time in the woods, increasing the risk of forest fires. The fires this summer have been relatively small, but it takes a lot of time and effort to extinguish them because they are burning into the dry ground, Arnold said.

Hay farmer Milan Adams said one of the fields he's tilling in Exeter, Rhode Island, is powder a foot down. In prior years it rained in the spring. This year, he said, the dryness started in March, and April was so dry he was nervous about his first cut of hay. □



# Doctor who sexually abused patients kills himself in jail

By **MICHAEL R. SISAK and MICHAEL RUBINKAM**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A once-prominent neurologist convicted last month of sexually abusing patients killed himself Monday at a New York City jail, two people familiar with the matter said.

Dr. Ricardo Cruciani, 68, was found unresponsive in a shower area at the Eric M. Taylor Center, a jail at the notorious Rikers Island complex, the people said. They were not authorized to speak publicly and did so on condition of anonymity.

Cruciani's lawyer, Frederick Sosinsky, confirmed in a statement that his client had died, but not the manner of death.

"Ricardo's attorneys and family are shocked and saddened beyond belief to have learned of his violent death while in city custody this morning," he said.

Sosinsky called for "an immediate and objective investigation" into the circumstances of Cruciani's death, including whether jail officials complied with a court order, at the time of his conviction, to place him in protective custody and under suicide watch.

"Neither of these conditions were, to our knowledge, ever complied with," Sosin-



**Dr. Ricardo Cruciani walks from the center for criminal justice, Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017, in Philadelphia, after pleading guilty to misdemeanor charges that he groped women at a clinic.**

**Associated Press**

sky said. "Had they been, we would not be having this terrible discussion."

Cruciani died while awaiting sentencing next month in a New York state case in which he was convicted of 12 counts, including predatory sexual assault, rape and sex abuse, and acquitted on two other counts. He faced up to life in prison. He was also scheduled to go on trial next January on federal charges accusing him of abusing multiple patients over 15 years at his of-

fices in New York City, Philadelphia and Hopewell, New Jersey.

Prosecutors said Cruciani groomed vulnerable patients by overprescribing pain killers, sometimes to treat serious injuries from car wrecks and other accidents.

Six women testified the sexual abuse often occurred behind closed doors during appointments in 2013 at a Manhattan medical center, where the doctor would expose himself and

demand sex.

"I take comfort knowing he now faces another judge," said Terrie Phoenix, who testified against Cruciani at trial.

Cruciani's act "was in no way a sign of remorse or guilt," said Hillary Tullin, who also testified and who helped fuel the case by calling a sexual abuse hotline in 2017. "He simply could not stand facing the rest of his life behind bars." Tullin called it a "sad day for all of his victims who

will never get to have finality and never have the chance to address the defendant to tell him directly how his crimes greatly impacted their lives."

Jeffrey Fritz, who represents 30 women who say they were victimized by Cruciani, including Phoenix and Tullin, said many of his clients "feel cheated of criminal justice."

The AP does not typically identify people who say they are survivors of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Phoenix and Tullin have done.

Cruciani denied abusing women. In court, his lawyer questioned the credibility of his accusers.

The fire department said it responded to a call of an inmate unconscious at the jail around 5:50 a.m. Paramedics attempted to resuscitate the inmate but were unable, and he was pronounced dead at the scene, the fire department said.

The city's Department of Correction, which runs Rikers Island, confirmed that an inmate at the Eric M. Taylor Center died Monday, but did not release his name, citing pending family notification. The cause of death is under investigation, the Department of Correction said. □

## \$100K reward offered in slaying of North Carolina deputy



**Wake County Sheriff deputies work at the scene where a deputy was shot and killed in eastern Wake County, N.C., near the intersection of Auburn Knightdale and Battle Bridge Road, Friday, Aug. 12, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

**RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)** — A \$100,000 reward is being offered in the case of a sheriff's deputy found fatally

shot along a dark stretch of road in North Carolina last week.

"Horrorified" by a string of

shootings that have injured and killed several deputies in the state in recent weeks, the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association announced the reward Monday for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible for the killing of Wake County Sheriff's Deputy Ned Byrd. The 48-year-old K-9 officer had been with the office for 13 years. Byrd joined the sheriff's office as a detention officer in 2009 and was sworn in as a deputy in 2018, according to the sheriff's office.

"We grieve with the families of the affected officers, and we offer our condolences to their friends, co-workers, and communi-

ties," the association said in a statement. "We extend our support to every law enforcement officer; we know these shootings make the burdens of your service heavier and the dangers of your work feel imminently more threatening."

Byrd was fatally shot late Thursday on a dark section of Battle Bridge Road, but it was not immediately clear why he stopped there, sheriff's office spokesperson Eric Curry said last week. Byrd had responded to a domestic call less than a mile away earlier in the night, then entered his notes into the system, he said.

There was no radio traffic to indicate that Byrd was making a traffic stop,

but it appears something caught his attention along the road, since his vehicle was positioned as if to illuminate something, he said. When Byrd did not respond to several attempts to contact him, another deputy found Byrd shot outside his vehicle with his K-9 still inside the vehicle, Curry said. Law enforcement officers from multiple agencies joined the "manhunt for the perpetrator or perpetrators," Curry said.

There is still an active investigation, Curry said Monday. The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives have joined in the investigation, Curry said. □



# Urban combat and beyond: Ukrainian recruits get UK training

By JILL LAWLESS

**A BRITISH ARMY BASE, England (AP)** — A few weeks ago, Serhiy was a business analyst at an IT company. Zakhar was a civil engineer. Now they are soldiers, training to liberate Ukraine from Russia's invasion — but doing it more than 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) away in Britain.

They are among several hundred Ukrainian recruits pounding through an intense form of infantry training at an army base in southeast England. One batch of the 10,000 Ukrainian soldiers that the British military has pledged to train within 120 days, they are spending several weeks learning skills including marksmanship, battlefield first aid and crucially for their country's future urban warfare.

As the Ukrainians practice house-clearing amid the rattle of gunfire and pall from smoke grenades on a mock-townscape where British soldiers once trained for operations in Northern Ireland, they think about driving Russian troops from the streets of their own cities..

"The most important part is urban training, because it's the most dangerous combat, in cities," said Serhiy, who like the other Ukrainians did not want his full name used because of security concerns. "The British instructors have a lot of



Ukrainian volunteer military recruits take part in an urban battle exercise whilst being trained by British Armed Forces at a military base in Southern England, Monday, Aug. 15, 2022.

Associated Press

experience, from Iraq, Afghanistan. We can adapt all this knowledge to the Ukrainian situation and use it to liberate our country from Russian invasion."

British trainers are putting the Ukrainian troops through a condensed version of the British Army's infantry training, covering

weapons handling, first aid, patrol tactics and the law of conflict. The aim is to turn raw recruits into battle-ready soldiers in a matter of weeks. The first batch arrived last month and have already been sent back to replenish depleted Ukrainian units.

"We are running a basic infantry course, which takes Ukrainian recruits and teaches them to shoot well, to move and communicate well within any tactical environment, and to medicate well," said Maj. Craig Hutton, a Scots Guards officer helping to oversee the training. Hutton says many of the Ukrainian troops have little military experience but "they are so motivated. They have a fantastic will to learn, and they just want to practice, practice and practice more."

More than 1,000 U.K. personnel are involved in the training mission, taking place at four bases around the U.K. Other countries are also sending trainers, including Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the Nordic nations. Britain is sending the Ukrainians home with new uniforms, body armor, helmets and other gear, part of 2.3 billion pounds' (\$2.8 billion) worth of U.K. military aid to the country that also includes anti-tank missiles and sophisticated rocket-launch systems. □

## WNBA's Brittney Griner appeals her Russian prison sentence

By JIM HEINTZ

Associated Press

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Lawyers for American basketball star Brittney Griner have filed an appeal of her nine-year Russian prison sentence for drug possession, Russian news agencies reported Monday, amid talks between the U.S. and Russia that could lead to a high-profile prisoner swap. Griner, an eight-time all-star center with the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury and two-time Olympic gold medalist, was convicted Aug. 4 after police said they found vape canisters containing cannabis oil in her luggage at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport.

Griner admitted that she had the canisters in her luggage, but said she had inadvertently packed them in haste and that she had no criminal intent. Her de-

fense team presented written statements that she had been prescribed cannabis to treat pain.

Her February arrest came at a time of heightened tensions between Moscow and Washington, just days before Russia sent troops into Ukraine. At the time, Griner, recognized as one of the greatest players in WNBA history, was returning to Russia, where she plays during the U.S. league's off-season.

Lawyer Maria Blagovolina was quoted by Russian news agencies on Monday as saying the appeal was filed, as was expected, but the grounds for it weren't immediately clear.

The nine-year sentence was close to the maximum of 10 years, and Blagovolina and co-counsel Alexander Boykov said after the conviction that the

punishment was excessive. They said that in similar cases defendants have received an average sentence of about five years, with about a third of them granted parole.

Before her conviction, the U.S. State Department declared Griner to be "wrongfully detained" a charge that Russia has sharply rejected.

Reflecting the growing pressure on the Biden administration to do more to bring Griner home, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken took the unusual step of revealing publicly in July that Washington had made a "substantial proposal" to get Griner home, along with Paul Whelan, an American serving a 16-year sentence in Russia for espionage.

Blinken didn't elaborate, but The Associated Press



U.S. Basketball player Brittney Griner looks through bars as she listens to the verdict standing in a cage in a courtroom in Khimki, outside Moscow, Russia, Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

and other news organizations have reported that Washington has offered to free Viktor Bout, a Russian arms dealer who is serving a 25-year sentence in the U.S. and once earned the nickname the "Merchant of Death."

On Sunday, a senior Russian diplomat said talks about an exchange have been conducted.

"This quite sensitive issue of the swap of convicted

Russian and U.S. citizens is being discussed through the channels defined by our presidents," Alexander Darchiev, head of the Foreign Ministry's North America department, told state news agency Tass.

"These individuals are, indeed, being discussed. The Russian side has long been seeking the release of Viktor Bout.

The details should be left to professionals." □



# Kenya's Ruto declared president after last-minute chaos

By CARA ANNA  
Associated Press

**NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)** — In a chaotic announcement that could foreshadow a court challenge, Kenya's electoral commission chairman on Monday declared Deputy President William Ruto the winner of the country's close presidential race over five-time contender Raila Odinga. The outcome was a triumph for a candidate who shook up the East African nation's politics by appealing to struggling Kenyans' economic concerns instead of their ethnic allegiances. Ruto received about 50.5% of the vote to nearly 49% for Odinga in last Tuesday's balloting, the chairman said. But just before the declaration, four of the seven electoral commissioners told reporters they could not support the "opaque nature" of the final steps, without giving details. Screams and scuffles broke out in the auditorium, the lectern was tossed from the stage, and police rushed in to restore order as a choir continued to sing. Minutes later, commission chairman Wafula Chebukati announced the official results and said the two commissioners who stayed behind with him had been injured. Odinga's campaign al-



**William Ruto, and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua, show the certificate after the announcement in the presidential race at the Centre in Bomas, Nairobi, Kenya, Monday, Aug. 15, 2022.**

Associated Press

leged that unspecified "electoral offenses" were committed and that a winner was illegally declared without a quorum of commissioners. "It is not over until it is over," Odinga's running mate, Martha Karua, a former justice minister, tweeted. Crowds of people across Kenya exploded in jubilation in some places, and in anger in others. Odinga supporters shouted "No Raila, no peace!" and burned tires in the crowded Nairobi neighborhood of Kibera as night fell. Religious leaders pleaded for

calm. Odinga's campaign has seven days to file a challenge in court, extending the uncertainty in Kenya, a country of 56 million people that is seen as crucial to regional stability. The Supreme Court will have 14 days to rule. This is likely to be the final run for Odinga, a 77-year-old longtime opposition figure who had the backing of outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta. Kenyatta fell out with his deputy, Ruto, years ago. Ruto told reporters that the divisions among the

electoral commissioners were just a "sideshow" and "pose no threat at all to the legality of the declaration." "What happened this evening is an unfortunate situation, I think an attempt by our competitors to roll back what we have achieved as a country," Ruto said. He praised a election that for many Kenyans represented a leap forward in transparency and peace, largely free from ethnic divisions that in the past played out with deadly results. In his acceptance speech, Ruto promised a "transparent, open, democratic gov-

ernment" and said people who had acted against his campaign "have nothing to fear. ... There is no room for vengeance."

Those were important vows from a man once mentored by former President Daniel Arap Moi, who ran Kenya as a repressive one-party state for almost a decade.

The 55-year-old Ruto portrayed himself during the campaign as the brash outsider, playing up his chicken-selling days from childhood. He told voters the election was a contest between "hustlers" from modest backgrounds and the "dynasties" of Kenyatta and Odinga, whose fathers were Kenya's first president and vice president.

The message was popular among many Kenyans struggling with rising prices, few job opportunities and widespread corruption.

"These are people who don't even know the price of bread. They don't know the price of anything," Ruto supporter Francis Irungu said of the political elite.

Odinga, famous for his yearslong detention during his fight for multiparty democracy decades ago and for supporting Kenya's groundbreaking 2010 constitution, appeared to many Kenyans this time as part of the establishment. □

## Minister: Syria ready to repatriate refugees from Lebanon

**DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)** — A Syrian Cabinet minister said Monday that Syrian refugees in neighboring Lebanon can start returning home, where he said they

will get all the help they need from authorities. Tiny Lebanon is home to 1 million Syrian refugees who fled war in their country after the conflict began

in March 2011. The large number of refugees in the small Mediterranean nation makes it one of the highest per capita host countries of refugees in the world. Minister of Local Administration Hussein Makhoul said his comments during a meeting in Syria's capital Damascus with Issam Charafeddine, Lebanon's caretaker minister of the displaced. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and rights groups oppose involuntary repatriation to Syria and say the practice risks endangering the returning refugees. "The doors are open for the return of Syrian refugees,"

Makhoul said, adding that the state is ready to assist returnees and give them all that they need.

Makhoul said that includes shelters for those whose homes were destroyed during the conflict that killed hundreds of thousands and displaced half the pre-war population of 23 million. More than 5 million Syrians are refugees, most of them in Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan.

Few Syrian refugees have returned home since President Bashar Assad's forces got much of the country under their control over the past few years with the help of allies Russia and Iran. The calls for the return of

Syrian refugees to their country have increased in Lebanon since the small nation's economic meltdown began. The downturn has left three-quarters of Lebanese living in poverty. For Syrians, living conditions have become worse since the economic crisis began in October 2019.

Over the past year, hundreds of Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinians have migrated from Lebanon by boats to Europe seeking better living conditions. Charafeddine told The Associated Press last month that Lebanon hopes to start repatriating 15,000 Syrian refugees every month in the near future. □



**Syrian children play soccer near their tented homes at a refugee camp in the town of Bar Elias, in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon, July 7, 2022.**

Associated Press



## Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad: 'We will delive around 300 schoolbags for children this year'

**ORANJESTAD – Our local reporter went to visit the headquarters of Aruba's food bank, Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad, situated in the Club Kibrahacha, where they were busy preparing around 300 schoolbags to hand out to underprivileged children. This year they have less schoolbags than previous years, according to the foundation, but that doesn't stop them from working tirelessly to help the community.**

Gianaika van der Biezen, director of the foundation, explained to our reporter that Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad has been organizing a 'Back to School' project for twelve years already, together with radio station Caliente FM, which consists of organizing a Radiothon and connecting with local businesses as well as the whole community in order to help underprivileged children to start school with a new backpack and all the necessary materials.

Mrs. Van der Biezen said to our reporter that to be honest, this year they had less schoolbags than usual. "Normally we have a larger amount", Mrs. Van der Biezen said, adding: "There are also many other institutions who are also busy with

Back to School projects, with two of them I was able to do a matching-list. Those are Mi Bos ta Bo Bos (My Voice is Your Voice), and also Interact Club of Aruba."

A marching-list is made in order to avoid for example that one child receives two bags and another is left without, because the lists of recipients can get quite long.

The foundation takes the clients who are register, or active and inactive clients who receive packages, but that the foundation is aware are going through hardship, to give them a hand. The foundation does an intake in order to evaluate the financial situation to see if it is difficult for the parents to purchase school items. Primarily the focus is on the backpack with some items in it, and there are some children – a very small amount – who manage to get a school uniform for this school year, that the foundation can help with.

"It's true that in the past there was more help with this, because I remember that there were years where we would hand out more than 400, almost 500 schoolbags. For sure two years ago we received schoolbags from abroad, we had more businesses taking

part, but I see that also there are other institutions busy with this and I think this is one of the reasons why the amount decreased with us", Mrs. Van der Biezen explains.

This year, the foundation commented that it is noticeable how the community has been financially affected, that they noticed how for example, Fundacion pa Nos Comunidad through Caliente FM received less than they did other years. They received some donations from Dijon Center, and according to the foundation, thankfully they were able to receive various donations from people who came to them and brought these donations. From Caliente FM they received more than 100 schoolbags. From Interact Club of Aruba they also received some donations, and Digicel also collaborated with school items for the kids.

For the clients who are registered at the foundation and already have all their information registered, they go easily through the process. And for those who are not clients of the foundation, the foundation carries out a financial review with them to see if they are eligible. But there were also clients for example who are already receiving a food

package, but their situation is still difficult. So the foundation works hard for active, non-active and new clients.

For the Back to School project, they had a lot of work on their hands. They have some volunteers who join them working long hours and days in order to get everything ready, to deliver everything on time so that all these children can have their items to begin the new school year with everything they need.

The value of all those who make a donation is a great contribution to the success of the foundation. With the community's generosity, Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad is able to continue helping families in need on our island.

The foundation finds it important to remind the community that with your contribution to the foundation, you encourage and bring hope to many homes that are going through difficult financial situations currently. Three words describe this foundation: hope, care and encouragement, and together these words are applied to the social service provided to the clients.







**Joven emprendedor Venezolano, graduado en Keiser University, Florida, Usa, en el área de negocios e inversiones internacionales, dedicado con mucho éxito a la docencia y al asesoramiento para realizar inversiones financieras.**

Se dedica a tiempo completo a estas actividades teniendo entre sus clientes grandes deportista del mundo del deporte, en especial del beisbol y del mundo económico mundial. Uno de los mejores en estas actividades, cuenta con gran cantidad de seguidores en las redes sociales.



## Leonardo David Diaz Lozada

Fue designado recientemente para hacer el lanzamiento inaugural entre los equipos Chicago Cubs y Marlins de Miami, el día 21 de septiembre en el Stadium Loan Depot Park., ubicado en el Condado de Miami Dade, Florida, continuación de los juegos designados por la Major League Baseball.

Este reconocimiento es motivado a los grandes éxitos y logros obtenidos por Leonardo David Diaz Lozada en el campo de las inversiones y los cursos de crecimiento profesional.

Felicitaciones por esta designación y que continúen los éxitos!!!



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## Paseo Herencia is always fun and exciting to visit



**NOORD—** Paseo Herencia offers a variety of shopping, dining and entertainment options in an outdoor center located in the heart of Palm Beach – walking distance from the high-rise hotels.

### Shopping

The Paseo Herencia stores offer a great collection in beach wear, clothing, perfume, shoes, jewelry, souvenirs and much more. Pamper yourself by visiting Maggy's and enjoy their salon services and shop for your favorite beauty products. Aruba Aloe has that perfect gift to bring back home, all made with natural ingredients. Other brand favorites are Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike store, Pandora and many more.

### Restaurants

Start with a breakfast meal

at Paseo Herencia offering unique breakfast options such as Drunk's Denial with their Make it Your Own Crêpe Bar offering sweet and savory crêpe flavors and the option to booze it up with their Mimosa crêpe (mandarin soaked in champagne), Pina Colada (pineapples in coconut rum), Bourbon Apple, Brandy Apricot, Whiskey Pear and more. Location can be found by following the bakery smell upon arrival. Another option is Seabarity offering you delicious breakfast options ranging from Huevos Rancheros to empanadas surrounded by a cozy picnic setting with streetside view. Go Argentinian style at Che Bar and try their delicious omelet with chorizo/ham, mozzarella, onions, peppers, and tomatoes served with skillet potatoes and toast. Looking for something for the whole family? Visit TGI Fridays and choose between

waffle, omelets, breakfast sandwiches and tacos starting at \$8. These restaurants are also open for lunch & dinner offering you a variety of cuisine choices. If you're looking for more unique concepts, join us for dinner at Xixon Restaurant greatly known in Miami for their Spanish inspired dishes with top notch flavors and the largest wine variety or visit The Lazy Turtle and try their exotic African dish "Kuvuta Kuku" accompanied by their tasty lazy cocktails. Coming for drinks? Sip and have a good time at the Bulldog Aruba located in the center of the Plaza. Open till late.

### VIP Cinema

Visit the one-of-a-kind Caribbean Cinemas VIP on the second floor of Paseo Herencia and enjoy your favorite movies in the most comfortable reclining seats with high quality screens with the latest projection and 7.1 Dolby surround sound and not to forget their delicious buttery bag of popcorn.

### Entertainment

Catch live shows from Monday to Thursday and Sunday at 8pm on the Paseo center stage and the nightly water shows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm and 9:30pm. Looking for some adrenaline? Visit the Airsoft experience located behind The Lazy Turtle. Snap Instagramable pictures at the Angel Wings located between Pandora and Free Spirit or the Flying mosaic hearts located behind King Churros.



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To learn more about our specials and events, visit the Paseo Herencia website [www.paseoherencia.com](http://www.paseoherencia.com).



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## Create museum memories

**ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you the these locations.**

### Museum of Industry Aruba

Museum of Industry in San Nicolas, better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum presents the history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments fund in 2003 so it could be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Fundacion Museo Arubano (FMA), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban culture sector, history, and nature.

For more information check

out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

### Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in downtown Oranjestad has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC. In the late 1980's AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architec-



ture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997 the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004 a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006 restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the new to build exhibition space. In December 2007 the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July

2009.

At the new location the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts an attractive public program including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba.□



## Know more about the Town Hall Eloy Arends building



**ORANJESTAD - The Monuments bureau shares some essential facts about the Town Hall known as the Eloy Arends building.**

The aim is to educate the community about the mansion's construction, history, and preservation.

The Doctor Eloy Arends building is located at the Wilhelminastraat 8 and was the home of the Arends family. It was the first building that the Monuments bureau, and the

Government of Aruba, restored in 1997. Mr. Medardo 'Dada' Picus, was the architect of this Aruban-Caribbean building. The building sits on a 1.545 m<sup>2</sup> plot of land and is a typical Aruban mansion. It is an open home with false walls that allow the connection of the rooms with each other.

The entrance has large doors and columns supporting the floor of the upper balcony. In between the columns, there are decoration details made out of wood. The elaborately detailed embellishment is known as gingerbread trim and the triangular decorative wall surface over the columns is called the tympanum.

The top of the doors and windows have stained glass.

The building is not built on ground level but at approximately 1.5 meters above ground level. This mansion elevation created storage be-

low the wooden floors and allowed proper ventilation.

The building has lots of windows which allow plenty of light inside, as well as good ventilation.

It has dormer windows and crowns on the outside part of the roof and different decorations on the edges of the walls and facade.

This is a stunning building full of beautiful details that resemble its beauty and transform into a history



of love. Aruban tradition for "well-to-do" families dictates that before a man gets married, he has to present his future wife with a newly built and fully furnished house. It was certainly the case with this building.

Due to the engagement between Eloy Arends and Monica Lacle (daughter of Adriaan Lacle, who is mainly known for the boulevard that bears his name), the construction of the mansion began in 1922 and was completed in 1925 when the couple got married.

The Office of the Civil Registry is located in the adjacent building, whereas the mansion hall is used exclusively for civil wedding ceremonies.

The Monuments bureau will continue to contribute and educate the community about the history of our monuments with significant value for Aruba.□



## Germille Geerman, From audiovisual production to local artisanal pizza specialist

**Germille Geerman (34) is a storyteller. His inspiration is Juan Chikito, who ever since he was a child would tell him stories of his great-grandfather, Lucas Wilfrido Werleman, known by the family as Juan Grandi, a renowned figure in Aruba.**

Germille grew up with his maternal and paternal grandparents, but it was Juan Chikito who painted the image of a family with 13 kids in Angochi, who lived by planting corn in fields that nowadays are the sports fields of Sportboys and Caravel. Now, Germille is a local entrepreneur who uses his artistic and communications talents to share part of his own history with locals and tourists, and at the same time supports initiatives to promote local agriculture. Recently, Geerman organized a meeting at Oasis Farm to celebrate farmer Ruthsel Emer and to give him support to continue pushing with a project that according to Germille, is the direction in which Aruba needs to go in order to be sustainable – urban agriculture.

Germille realized from a young age that he needed to tell the story of Juan Grandi, and his own life is a trajectory to arrive to this goal. And as it is beautiful about a story, sometimes the chapters write themselves.

Juan Grandi was an electrician and his job was at Lago (old refinery) thanks to the fact that he learned to speak English during a stint working in Cuba to support his family. He couldn't read nor write, but even so, he had a great influence. Juan Grandi put a lot of value in family and the development of Angochi and the neighborhood, and even became elemental for politics in Aruba. Juan Grandi was the first in his neighborhood to have a car, and he procured the first filming project in Aruba.

And perhaps it was what

inspired Germille to enter media. In his adolescence he felt that television or audiovisual media was the way. Germille was barely 15 when, after asking for a long time, he got a call from (TV channel) ATV for the airing of boxing. His work was to move cables, but Germille accepted it gladly. With airing of world soccer, Germille entered the studio, which helped him get closer to his goal to learn to dominate audio visual media.

It was while he was working with Star Vision, which later became Canal 22, when Germille learned more, under the guidance of Pedro Gomez and others who came from TeleAruba.

So it was a painful hit when the channel shut down and suddenly Germille was out of a job, but worse yet, he didn't have media to communicate in Aruba. However, he didn't stay at home for long. Aside from (night) school, he went back into production with Tessa Pietersz and Trend Alert. However, he realized that there had been no innovation in technology. So he decided to take out a loan and invest in cameras and computer for the new era of recording, digital. What the young entrepreneur was not prepared for however was that while clients wanted quality, they were not ready to pay for it. And his lack of experience left him accepting jobs for less than he was worth.

Consequently, the financial reality came knocking at his door, and Germille's story became one of a very disappointed, depressed young man, left with debt that he is still paying off. He fell into a deep depression, with a lot of anxiety. Germille tried to soothe the pain he was feeling with cigarettes and alcohol, but finally realized that what would calm him down and help him function was cannabis. "Cannabis removed my anxiety and allowed me to function and even help others. And because I

am calm now, I don't need it anymore", he says.

But the spirit of Juan Grandi is strong within him, and it didn't take long for Germille, despite his wounds, to rise again and recreate himself. Even though the reality of life was still weighing on his wallet and emotions, Germille kept pushing forward.

He found a medium of expression in art, collaborating with Atelier '89. And his collaboration with Tito Bolivar, for the first Aruba Art Fair, formed another point of development for Germille, since he met big artists from abroad and recognized their passion to tell social realities through art, in this case, through murals. This was also the time he took on the nickname 'El Mustachi te Ama' (the mustache loves you). "I had a mustache and those who came to Aruba would call me by it". But as usual, there is rejection locally, and so "I decided to add 'loves you' behind the nickname."

In other words, to change the negative to positive. And that energy translated in art pieces including his unique vegetarian pizzas, made from the same ingredient which supported the Werleman family in Angochi for many years, maishi rabo (corn), yambo (okra), conconber chikito (small cucumber). Germille called his pizzeria Itza Pizza after his daughter, and now he tells Aruba's history in creations which are winning over tourists and locals, who are willing to pay for a unique product. The entrepreneur learned his lesson.

But more than a product to be sold, the ingredients in his pizza are homage to what Aruba can produce and the work of his great-grandfather who invested a lot of time in the culture and progress of Aruba. His great-grandson, who now took on the nickname 'Johnny Farina' (in English, Johnny Flour) is investing a lot of energy and time in or-

der to keep his story alive, and at the same time contribute to awareness for the

value of local art and agriculture, tangible heritage of Aruba.





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Lauder of cosmetics
  - 1 Grow paler
  - 5 Wild pigs see
  - 10 Copying
  - 12 Bay servings
  - 13 Decennial official
  - 43 God of war
  - 15 Devon-shire river

- DOWN**
- 1 Confronts
  - 2 High points
  - 3 Moolah
  - 4 Print units
  - 5 Drill parts
  - 6 "Cat — Hot Tin Roof"
  - 7 Acid opposer
  - 8 Land, as a fish
  - 9 Bra parts
  - 11 Old English coin
  - 14 2009 MTV show
  - 19 Waned
  - 20 Church topper
  - 24 Small chimp of the Congo
  - 25 Wise sayings
  - 26 Fade away
  - 27 Taken care of
  - 29 Staple gun's cousin
  - 30 Stick
  - 33 Catego-rizes
  - 35 Directors Spike and Ang
  - 38 Acquire
  - 39 Director DuVernay

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Yesterday's answer

- 25 Church area
- 28 Main artery
- 31 Title paper
- 32 Massages
- 34 "— we there yet?"
- 35 Zodiac sign
- 36 John of "Harold & Kumar" films
- 37 Drum-mer with Cream

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8-16

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-16

CRYPTOQUOTE

UN AVK HDP LDPIX DPL FX

N O X X D P L P V E F X

XZFDODDQQXL AVK HDP OKYX

ERX SVOYL — DZA BVXMYXO

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: OIL THE SUMMER NIGHT/HAS A SMILE OF LIGHT/AND SHE SITS ON A SAPPHIRE THRONE. — BARRY CORNWALL

## Just Starting Out? Learn From Our Mistakes



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

Associated Press

By LIZ WESTON of NerdWal-let

Those of us who write and talk about money for a living tend to have our financial acts together. But that wasn't always the case. I invited some personal finance experts to share what they wish they could have told their younger selves about money.

### INVEST EARLY, EVEN IF IT'S SCARY

If the stock market scares you, nationally syndicated Washington Post columnist Michelle Singletary can relate. Singletary says she avoided investing for many years because in her first job out of college, an older co-worker — one who was close to retirement age — warned her that stocks were too risky.

Singletary later realized that someone in their 20s has decades to ride out stock market swings, and that she could have afforded to take much more risk with her investments.

"The lesson I learned was to look at my own individual situation and invest based on my timeline and goals," Singletary says.

### STUDENT LOAN DEBT CAN PAY OFF

Darian Woods, a reporter and producer for "The Indicator from Planet Money" podcast, says he can no longer remember exactly

how much he borrowed to get a master's in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley — just that his balance was "in the tens of thousands of dollars" by the time he graduated. The debt felt enormous. Woods wishes he could reassure his anxious younger self that the loans were a solid investment in his future. Woods, a New Zealand native, landed a job as an analyst for his country's treasury department and was able to pay off the loans in a year.

"That debt wasn't as much of an albatross as I'd feared," Woods says.

### SAVING, SPENDING, EARNING: THEY'RE ALL IMPORTANT

Paco de Leon, author of the book "Finance for the People: Getting a Grip On Your Finances," has two bits of advice for her younger self. The first is to save, no matter what. Saving can feel futile on a small income, but the amount you save is far less important than the habit of saving that you'll develop, she says.

The second piece of advice: Deal with your pain.

De Leon graduated with a degree in finance and a minor in economics. But a head full of knowledge about money concepts was no match for what de

Leon calls "a deep-rooted scarcity mindset" and a profound sense of inferiority. De Leon says she didn't earn enough for years because she wasn't convinced of her own worth and bought expensive things she couldn't afford, hoping to get validation from others. She wishes her younger self had spent time in self-reflection and therapy to work through her psychological issues.

"Do the work to heal your pain, so you aren't creating more unnecessary problems for yourself," de Leon says.

### DON'T MAKE WORK YOUR LIFE

Tess Vigeland is host and senior producer of The Wall Street Journal's "As We Work" podcast. She, too, has both practical and philosophical advice for her younger self.

The practical: Never, ever carry a credit card balance if you can help it.

"I got myself in deep credit debt throughout my early and mid-20s, because I lived life like I had my parents' bank account, when in fact I had a tiny fraction of that," Vigeland says.

The philosophical: Develop interests outside of your job. Vigeland loved her work in public radio — until she didn't. In 2012, she abruptly quit her job as host of American Public Media's "Marketplace Money," a personal finance show, with no clue about what she wanted to do next.

Part of that journey became a book, "Leap: Leaving a Job with No Plan B to Find the Career and Life You Really Want." But Vigeland says life after public radio might have been easier if her work hadn't been such a big part of her identity.

"Have something you love to do outside of what you do for a living," Vigeland says. "It will help down the line if you decide to leap to another career or go back to school — you won't be stuck in just one idea of who you are and what you can do." □



# Florida utility's new drone can speed hurricane recovery

By **CODY JACKSON**  
**Associated Press**  
**WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)**

— Florida's primary energy provider is ready to launch a powerful new technology, just ahead of the busiest weeks of the Atlantic hurricane season: a new fixed-wing drone designed fly into tropical storm force winds and speed the restoration of electricity after severe weather. FPLAir One resembles a small plane and is remotely operated, enabling the utility to capture and deliver images and video of damaged electrical equipment in real time to its command center. It can fly up to 1000 miles (1600 kilometers) at a time — enough to cover the length of Florida twice in the immediate wake of the most damaging storms. It's a vast improvement on bucket trucks and hand-held drones when it comes to learning what a storm did at the top of a power pole.

"Rather than going out and try to figure out what's going on, we're able to save hours and days on getting the lights on," Florida Power and Light Chairman and CEO Eric Silagy told The Associated Press. □

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## Assistant Director

**Xiomara Arends**

## Editors

**Pilar Flores**  
**Richard Brooks**

## Sales

**Sulaika Croes**

## Classifieds

**classified@cspnv.com**

## Distribution and Collection

**accounting@bondia.com**

## Social / Website

**Juan Luis Pinto**

## Columnists

**Anthony Croes**

**Weststraat 22**

**T: 582-7800**

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<b>Sta. Cruz</b>	<b>527 2900</b>
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<b>Police Tipline</b>	<b>11141</b>
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**Child Abuse Prevention**  
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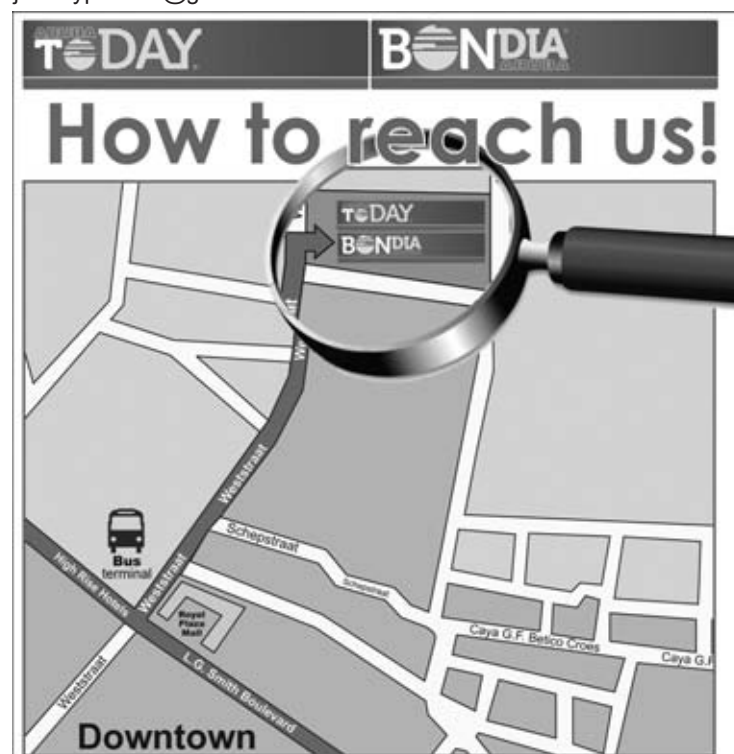
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# Strike four: Facebook misses election misinfo in Brazil ads

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**  
AP Technology Writer

Facebook failed to detect blatant election-related misinformation in ads ahead of Brazil's 2022 election, a new report from Global Witness has found, continuing a pattern of not catching material that violates its policies the group describes as "alarming."

The advertisements contained false information about the country's upcoming election, such as promoting the wrong election date, incorrect voting methods and questioning the integrity of the election — including Brazil's electronic voting system.

This is the fourth time that the London-based non-profit has tested Meta's ability to catch blatant violations of the rules of its most popular social media platform — and the fourth such test Facebook has flubbed. In the three prior instances, Global Witness submitted advertisements containing violent hate speech to see if Facebook's controls — either human reviewers or artificial intelligence — would catch them. They did not. "Facebook has identified Brazil as one of its priority countries where it's investing special resources specifically to tackle election related disinformation," said Jon Lloyd, senior advisor at Global Witness. "So we wanted to really test out their systems with enough time for them to act. And with the U.S. midterms around the corner, Meta simply has to get this right — and right now."

Brazil's national elections will be held on Oct. 2 amid high tensions and disinformation threatening to discredit the electoral pro-



An iPhone displays the Facebook app in New Orleans, Aug. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

cess. Facebook is the most popular social media platform in the country. In a statement, Meta said it has "prepared extensively for the 2022 election in Brazil."

"We've launched tools that promote reliable information and label election-related posts, established a direct channel for the Superior Electoral Court (Brazil's electoral authority) to send us potentially-harmful content for review, and continue closely collaborating with Brazilian authorities and researchers," the company said.

In 2020 Facebook began requiring advertisers who wish to run ads about elections or politics to complete an authorization process and include "paid for by" disclaimers on them, similar to what it does in the U.S. The increased safeguards follow the 2016 U.S. presidential elections, when Russia used rubles to pay for political ads designed to stoke divisions and unrest

among Americans.

Global Witness said it broke these rules when it submitted the test ads (which were approved for publication but were never actually published). The group placed the ads from outside Brazil, from Nairobi and London, which should have raised red flags.

It was also not required to put a "paid for by" disclaimer on the ads and did not use a Brazilian payment method — all safeguards Facebook says it had put in place to prevent misuse of its platform by malicious actors trying to intervene in elections around the world. "What's quite clear from the results of this investigation and others is that their content moderation capabilities and the integrity systems that they deploy in order to mitigate some of the risk during election periods, it's just not working," Lloyd said.

The group is using ads as a test and not regular posts

because Meta claims to hold advertisements to an "even stricter" standard than regular, unpaid posts, according to its help center page for paid advertisements.

But judging from the four investigations, Lloyd said that's not actually clear.

"We we are constantly having to take Facebook at their word. And without a verified independent third party audit, we just can't hold Meta or any other tech company accountable for what they say they're doing," he said.

Global Witness submitted ten ads to Meta that obviously violated its policies around election-related advertising. They included false information about when and where to vote, for instance and called into question the integrity of Brazil's voting machines — echoing disinformation used by malicious actors to destabilize democracies around the world.

In another study carried out by the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, researchers identified more than two dozen ads on Facebook and Instagram, for the month of July, that promoted misleading information or attacked the country's electronic voting machines.

The university's internet and social media department, NetLab, which also participated in the Global Witness study, found that many of those had been financed by candidates running for a seat at a federal or state legislature.

This will be Brazil's first election since far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, who is seeking reelection, came to power. Bolsonaro has repeatedly attacked the integrity of the country's electronic voting system.

"Disinformation featured heavily in its 2018 election, and this year's election is already marred by reports of widespread disinformation, spread from the very top: Bolsonaro is already seeding doubt about the legitimacy of the election result, leading to fears of a United States-inspired January 6 'stop the steal' style coup attempt," Global Witness said. In its previous investigations, the group found that Facebook did not catch hate speech in Myanmar, where ads used a slur to refer to people of East Indian or Muslim origin and call for their deaths; in Ethiopia, where the ads used dehumanizing hate speech to call for the murder of people belonging to each of Ethiopia's three main ethnic groups; and in Kenya, where the ads spoke of beheadings, rape and bloodshed. □

## UN chief taps Grenada's Simon Stiell as new UN climate chief

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced the appointment Monday of Simon Stiell from the Caribbean island nation of Grenada as the new U.N. climate chief, calling him, "a true champion" of creative approaches to tackling the global climate crisis. Stiell, who originally trained in the United Kingdom as

an engineer and earned an MBA there, was a senior member in Grenada's government from 2013 until June 2022, serving as minister for climate resilience and the environment for five years.

Prior to joining the government, he spent 14 years in the technology sector, holding senior executive positions in industry leading com-

panies from Silicon Valley technology start-ups to major corporations, including Nokia and GEC Plessey Telecommunications.

In recent years Stiell has been among a handful of prominent figures from vulnerable nations demanding that rich countries step up their efforts to combat climate change and help those around

the world who are most vulnerable. Reacting recently to a scientific report about the effects of climate change already affecting more than 3 billion people worldwide, Stiell warned that inaction would be "catastrophic." "Nothing less than the most extreme measures to cut emissions and adapt to this crisis can be justified," he said. □



# Harvick seizes momentum ahead of NASCAR playoffs

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)** — Well hello, Happy. Welcome to NASCAR's championship race.

Just when it seemed time to write off Kevin Harvick, at least for this season, the 46-year-old has figured out how to win again. He has two victories in eight days — after snapping a 65-race losing streak dating to 2020 — and all the momentum headed into the playoffs. If you counted Harvick out, he's now demanding a correction.

"It's kind of like when they put those small boxes in the newspaper where they have to correct their story and you can't hardly read them. I feel like a lot of you should put those at the bottom of your story. I get great gratification out of that," Harvick said after winning Sunday at Richmond Raceway.

His resurgence has saved his season.

After winning a career-high nine races in 2020, Harvick disappeared. He went winless last season for the first time since 2009 and only the fourth time in 22 Cup seasons.

This year, he seemed slow to grasp NASCAR's new Next Gen car as a slew of new faces raced their way



**Kevin Harvick celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Richmond Raceway, Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022, in Richmond, Va.**

Associated Press

to victory lane. The Cup Series so far has five first-time winners this season, the playoff grid filling fast with fresh new names, and Harvick found himself in a vulnerable spot headed into the final month to qualify for one of the 16 playoff berths.

His much-needed first win came Aug. 7 at Michigan, followed by Sunday's win at Richmond, making Harvick the only back-to-back

race winner this season.

"At this point, a win's a win, right? I think we were 0-for-65 and we've done nothing different and here we are two weeks in a row. That's racin', right?" Harvick grinned.

The 60th Cup victory of his career tied Harvick with Kyle Busch for ninth all-time in NASCAR. Next up on the list? The late Dale Earnhardt in eighth at 76 career victories.

To have Earnhardt in reach brings Harvick full circle: He replaced Earnhardt following Earnhardt's fatal 2001 crash in the Daytona 500.

"As you start your career, it's easy to say, 'I want to win 70-some races' and then you start doing this on a week-to-week basis," Harvick said. "It's just a lot harder because everyone in this garage is just a killer, from the crew chief to the drivers to the guys chang-

ing the tires. It's the best of the best, and it's not easy to keep your team and everybody within your organization competitive, keep yourself competitive."

Now that he's proven to still be competitive, Harvick is a serious threat for a second Cup championship.

And that's very good for NASCAR.

Harvick is one of the few throwbacks remaining in the Cup garage. A former West Coast racer nicknamed "Happy" when he got to NASCAR, the stress of replacing Earnhardt turned Harvick's nickname into unintentional satire.

It was fitting, though, as he scrapped on and off the track and proved over two decades he would not be pushed around. It's a younger man's game now — the average age of this season's first-time winners is 27 — and the tricks Harvick mastered seemingly no longer applied with the Next Gen car.

But the No. 4 team at Stewart-Haas Racing began to figure out the car long before the wins finally came. A crash at Gateway in June dropped Harvick to 13th in the standings and on the bubble of not making the playoffs. □

# Rangers fire manager Chris Woodward short of his 500th game

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

**ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)**

— The Texas Rangers fired manager Chris Woodward on Monday, with the team on pace for its sixth consecutive losing season and fourth since he took over the team.

The move came with Woodward only two games shy of managing his 500th game with the Rangers. He finished with a 211-287 record.

Woodward, who was the third base coach for the Los Angeles Dodgers before landing his first managerial job, was under contract through next season. The team held an option for the 2024 season.

"We have had extensive discussions over the last several weeks and while the team's current perfor-

mance is certainly a big part of this decision, we are also looking at the future," said Jon Daniels, the team's president of baseball operations. "As the Rangers continue to develop a winning culture and put the pieces together to compete for the postseason year in and year out, we felt a change in leadership was necessary at this time."

Daniels said the 46-year-old Woodward was "dedicated and passionate in his efforts to improve the on-field performance" of the team. Third base coach Tony Beasley was named the team's interim manager, starting with Monday night's game against the Oakland A's.

Texas was 53-61 after finishing a series win at home Sunday over the Seattle Mariners, but hasn't had

a winning record at any point this season. That's even after a record offseason spending spree that added a half-billion dollar infield — All-Star shortstop Corey Seager to a \$325 million, 10-year contract, and Gold Glove second baseman Marcus Semien to a \$175, seven-year deal. The Rangers peaked at 24-24 at the end of May, but then lost their next three games and five of six.

When the Rangers signed Seager, Semien and right-hander Jon Gray (four-year, \$56 million contract), they knew they still had a long way to go after 102 losses last season. But they expected to be showing more significant improvement this season.

Beasley is in his eighth season with the Rangers, and is



**Texas Rangers' Charlie Culberson (11) gets a high five from manager Chris Woodward after scored on a sacrifice bunt by teammate Bubba Thompson during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners in Arlington, Texas, Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022.**

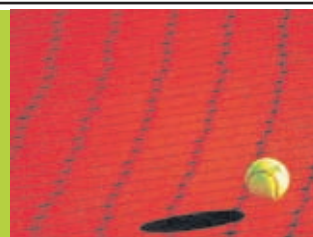
Associated Press

the longest-tenured member of their big-league coaching staff. He previously was on the major league staffs with Washing-

ton (2006) and Pittsburgh (2008-10), and had a 590-472 record in eight seasons as a minor league manager in those organizations. □



# SPORTS



## No. 1 Alabama tops preseason AP Top 25; Ohio St, 'Dawgs next

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**

**AP College Football Writer**

With two of the best players in the country leading the way — and a championship game loss as motivation — Alabama is No. 1 in The Associated Press preseason college football poll for the second straight season and ninth time overall. Heisman Trophy winner Bryce Young, national defensive player of year Will Anderson Jr. and the Crimson Tide received 54 of 63 first-place votes and 1,566 points in the Top 25 presented by Regions Bank released on Monday.

Ohio State is No. 2 with six first-place votes (1,506 points) from the media panel and defending national champion Georgia is third with three first-place votes (1,455 points). Clemson is No. 4. Notre Dame rounds out the top five, setting up a tantalizing opener at Ohio State on Sept. 3. The Tide's preseason No. 1 ranking is the seventh in 15 years under coach Nick Saban.

Since the preseason rankings started in 1950, only Oklahoma with 10 has been No. 1 in the initial poll more often than Alabama. The Crimson Tide started last season No. 1 and finished ranked No. 2 after losing the national championship game to the Southeastern Conference rival Bulldogs. Alabama coach Nick Saban recently called 2021 a rebuilding season for his Tide dynasty, which has won six national titles over the last 13 years. He has a point. Young was in his first season as a starter last year, playing behind an inexperienced offensive line. He was unfazed, throwing for 4,872 yards and 47 touchdowns.

Anderson was a force on the other side ball as Alabama broke in a back seven with mostly new starters. The sophomore led the nation in tackles for loss with



Alabama head coach Nick Saban leaves the field after their win against Ohio State in an NCAA College Football Playoff national championship game in Miami Gardens, Fla., Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021.

Associated Press

33 1/2, 11 1/2 more than No. 2 on the list.

Ohio State brings back a Heisman Trophy finalist at quarterback in C.J. Stroud while at Georgia, most of the key players from one of the best college defenses of the last 25 years are now in NFL. Still, quarterback Stetson Bennett and All-America tight end Brock Bowers return to a Bulldogs offense that could be even more explosive in 2022.

Texas A&M, which finished last season unranked despite handing Alabama its only regular-season loss, starts this season No. 6.

Defending Pac-12 champion Utah is seventh, the best preseason ranking in school history. Defending Big Ten champion Michigan is No. 8 after making the playoff for the first time last season. No. 9 Oklahoma is the highest-ranked Big 12 school, one spot ahead of defending league champion Baylor.

### POLL POINTS

Alabama has been in the preseason top five in each

of last 14 seasons and in the preseason top three in 13 straight. The Tide's 31st preseason top-five ranking this year matches Ohio State for the most in poll history. Turning preseason No. 1 into a national championship has proved tricky throughout history, even for Alabama.

The Crimson Tide has gone on to win the national championship after starting No. 1 just once under Saban and twice overall.

Since the AP preseason began in 1950, there have been 11 preseason No. 1 teams that also finished the season top ranked. Alabama was the last to do it (2017).

### RARITIES AND STREAKS

— No. 13 North Carolina State is ranked in the preseason for the first time since 2003. The Wolfpack matched their best preseason ranking. They were also 13th in 1975.

— No. 17 Pitt is in the preseason rankings for the first time since 2010.

— No. 20 Kentucky is mak-

ing its first preseason poll appearance since 1978.

— No. 22 Wake Forest made the preseason rankings for the first time since 2008.

— Ohio State is ranked in the preseason for the 34th straight season, breaking a tie with Nebraska (1970-2002) and Penn State (1968-2000) for the longest such streak in poll history.

— Texas A&M has the second-best preseason ranking for a team that finished the previous season unranked. Ohio State was No. 3 in the 1972 preseason poll after being unranked at the end of the 1971 season and Notre Dame also started No. 6 in 1983 after finishing unranked in 1982.

How did the seasons work out of those teams? Ohio State went 9-2 and finished the season No. 9. The Irish went 7-5 and unranked again.

### NOTABLE LEFTOUTS

— LSU with new coach Brian Kelly will start the season unranked for the first time 2000, Saban's first of five

seasons as coach of the Tigers.

— Florida and Florida State are both unranked to start the season, which has not happened since 1974.

### NEWBIES

Five schools ranked in the preseason poll have head coaches starting their first full seasons leading their teams: Notre Dame (Marcus Freeman), Oklahoma (Brent Venables), No. 11 Oregon (Dan Lanning), No. 14 USC (Lincoln Riley) and No. 16 Miami (Mario Cristobal).

This is the second time in the last five seasons that five teams with new coaches were ranked in the preseason, according to research done by Sportradar. It also happened in 2018, but before that season that type of representation in the preseason poll for teams with new coaches was a rarity.

You have to go all the way back to 1990 when six schools with coaches entering their first full season appeared in the preseason Top 25, according to Sportradar. That list includes some notable names: Gary Moeller, Michigan; Ken Hatfield, Clemson; Gene Stallings, Alabama; Jack Crowe, Arkansas; Paul Hackett, Pittsburgh; and John Jenkins, Houston.

### CONFERENCE CALL

For the fourth straight season, the Southeastern Conference has three teams in the top six.

The Atlantic Coast Conference matched its best showing in the preseason poll with five teams. The ACC has reached that number four previous times. SEC - 6 (Nos. 1, 3, 6, 19, 20, 21).

ACC - 5 (Nos. 4, 13, 16, 17, 22).

Big Ten - 4 (Nos. 2, 8, 15, 18).

Big 12 - 3 (Nos. 9, 10, 12).

Pac-12 - 3 (Nos. 7, 11, 14).

American - 2 (Nos. 23, 24).

Independents - 2 (Nos. 5, 25). □